


REMARKS

The Examiner has issued a restriction requirement requiring Applicants to elect between the claims of group I (claims 1-47) and group II (claims 48 and 49). Applicants elect group I (claims 1-47).

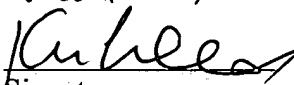
Applicants are correcting a minor punctuation error in claim 24.

Respectfully submitted,


Kenneth E. Leeds
Reg. No. 30,566
Attorney for Applicants

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on December 4, 2001.

December 4, 2001
Date


Signature

COPY OF CLAIM 24 SHOWING THE CHANGES BEING MADE

24. (Amended) Method comprising:

providing a work piece comprising a crack extending through the thickness of the work piece, said crack having a closed shape such that the crack surrounds a first portion of said work piece and is surrounded by a second portion of said work piece[.]; and

causing a temperature differential between said first and second portions such that the first portion has a greater temperature than the second portion, thereby facilitating the separation of the first and second portions.